

Title: RADARSAT NAVIGATION
Appropriate Topic: Experience from current- or recent missions
Alternative topic: N/A

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Abstract,:

This paper describes the inter-agency collaboration and interfaces between Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and the Canadian Space agency (CSA) for the Flight Dynamics segment of the RADARSAT mission support. Launch occurred on 4 Nov, '95.

The mission description is provided along with its purpose, characteristics and accuracy requirements. The injection orbit features include biasing of the semi-major axis in order to avoid any need for retrograde burn.

The JPL-CSA interface consisted of pre-launch compatibility testing in dynamics modeling, spacecraft trajectory generation and in orbit estimation. In spite of limitations and differences in modeling, compatibility was attained in all areas. Participation by Deep Space Network (DSN) and non-DSN stations along with the use of existing Earth Orbiter missions such as SAMPEX and ERBS are detailed. The above tests helped in validating CSA's Flight Dynamics software and Canadian Tracking sites.

The mission operations plan, schedule for orbit solution generation, exchange of Inter-Center Vectors (ICVs), maneuver design and supply of maneuver information to JPL are detailed. The maneuver a priori information was incorporated in the antenna predict inputs provided to the DSN. The lead agency (CSA) was responsible for the mission, and maneuver design and execution. JPL was responsible for tracking and navigation during the Launch and Early Orbit Phase (LEOP) and into the Commissioning phase. CSA performed navigation functions in parallel. Orbit solutions using data exclusively from the Canadian sites demonstrated CSA's ability to provide all the required navigation products during routine mission operations. After 18 Dec, '95 CSA assumed sole responsibility for Radarsat navigation and DSN support was scaled down after 2 Feb, '96. Radarsat demonstrated a clear example of the synergism resulting from close cooperation between two agencies.